PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Industry leaders, researchers, government officials featured at workshop on new antimicrobial drugs and alternatives to antibiotics for food animals

March 10, 2016: Representatives from animal health pharmaceutical companies, biotech development companies, universities, global animal health associations and government agencies will be part of the program at the March 17-18, 2016, workshop exploring incentives and disincentives for development of new antimicrobial drugs and alternatives to antibiotics for use in food animals.

The workshop, a collaboration of Farm Foundation, NFP, and USDA’s Economic Research Service (ERS), will take place at the ERS offices at Patriots Plaza III, 355 E Street SW, Washington, D.C.

Keynoting the program on the morning of March 17 is Catherine Woteki, USDA Undersecretary for Research, Education and Economics. The complete agenda, which is posted on the Farm Foundation website, offer details of speakers for each workshop session.

The rise of antibiotic resistance and the decline in the number of new antibiotics being developed has generated concern for the future of human medicine. Much less attention is being focused on similar concerns for food animal antibiotics. To understand how to incentivize research and development of new antimicrobial drugs and novel products requires consideration of several factors, including: the market for animal pharmaceuticals, how to bring a product to market, the regulatory protocols required to bring products to market, the regulations on use of antibiotics in food production, and the overlap between human and animal antibiotic use and development.

The March 17-18 workshop will also explore what types of interventions might be used to incentivize research and development of new antimicrobial drugs and novel products for use in food animals. This workshop is not intended to explore the chain of antimicrobial resistance from farm to fork, or antibiotic stewardship practices in livestock production.

There is no charge to participate in the workshop in person, but registration is requested and can be completed online.
For those individuals unable to travel to Washington, D.C. to participate in the workshop, a free audiocast is available. Registration for the audiocast is also available online. Details on how to access LiveMeeting for each session of the workshop are available on the Farm Foundation website.

The workshop is targeted to policy makers, researchers and government agency staff, as well as representatives of the human health, livestock production, veterinary medicine and animal health industries.

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USDA’s Economic Research Service has a mission to inform and enhance public and private decision making on economic and policy issues related to agriculture, food, the environment and rural development. With more than 300 employees, the Economic Research Service is a primary source of economic information and research in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Farm Foundation, NFP serves as a catalyst for sound public policy by providing objective information to foster a deeper understanding of issues shaping the future for agriculture, food systems and rural regions. The Foundation does not lobby or advocate. The Foundation’s 83-year reputation for objectivity allows it to bring together diverse stakeholders for discussions on economic and public policy issues.

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